

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 12, 2004

The Honorable Spencer Abraham
Secretary
Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20585

The Honorable Josh Bolten
Director
Office of Management & Budget
17th St. & Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Secretary Abraham and Director Bolten:

We are writing to express our strong support for the Environmental Management Program within the Department of Energy. It is essential that the program be adequately funded in the Fiscal Year 2005 budget request to maintain the cleanup progress of recent years.

We appreciate the Administration meeting its commitment last year by calling for the highest ever level of cleanup funding. This year's budget request must also appropriately meet the Administration's obligation to the accelerated cleanup program. The accelerated cleanup program will result in the completion of the Environmental Management mission decades earlier, creating a safer environment and saving billions of taxpayer dollars.


It is important to maintain the measurable progress being made around the country at these sites. We must continue our efforts to substantially reduce the threats posed to the health and safety of the surrounding communities.

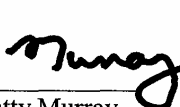
It is critical that the progress we have made continue as scheduled in FY2005 and that the Department of Energy meet its obligations to promptly address the environmental and public health problems posed by the contaminated sites. We must make certain to continue the momentum which has been created.


We appreciate the Administration's commitment made to the accelerated cleanup of the nuclear waste legacy of World War II and the Cold War. We urge you to work to ensure that the President's budget request include an appropriate level of funding to continue this important work unabated. The accelerated cleanup program involves obligations and commitments made by all parties. We strongly urge you to provide for sufficient funding for the program in the President's upcoming budget proposal to meet those commitments.

Thank you for your efforts in this matter and for your consideration of our request on behalf of the communities directly impacted by the environmental hazards created as a result of our nuclear weapons programs.

Sincerely,


Representative Doc Hastings

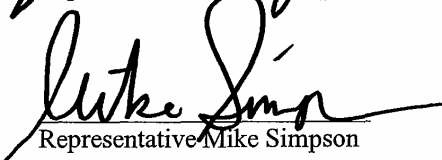

Senator Patty Murray

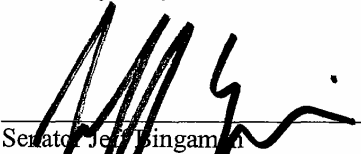

Senator Mike Crapo

House Cleanup Caucus Chair Senate Caucus Co-Chair Senate Caucus Co-Chair


Representative Zach Wamp

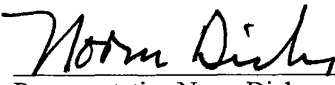

Senator Lindsey Graham

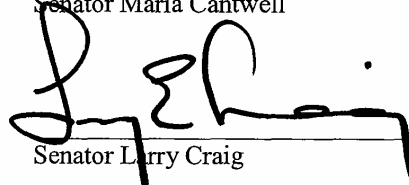

Representative Mike Simpson


Senator Jeff Bingaman


Representative Charlie Norwood


Senator Maria Cantwell


Representative Norm Dicks

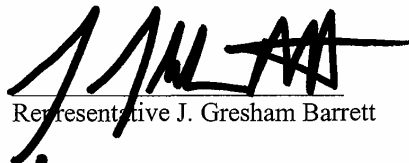

Senator Larry Craig


Representative Butch Otter


Senator Gordon Smith


Representative Stevan Pearce


Senator Ron Wyden



Representative J. Gresham Barrett



Representative Mark Udall



Representative Amo Houghton



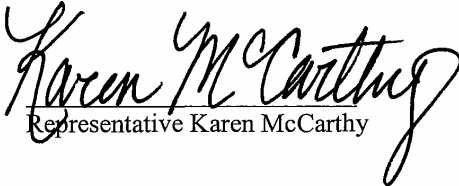
Representative Joe Wilson



Representative George R. Nethercutt Jr.



Representative Tom Tancredo



Representative Karen McCarthy



Representative Michael Turner